

had his best vision and his best grasp of this business in reforming public education because he always referred back to his vision for the next generation. The next generation was always on his mind. As a proponent of equal educational opportunities, he introduced sweeping education and tax reform bills. The list of his achievements in the Senate is substantial, indeed.

PAUL COVERDELL holds a special place in our hearts as we say goodbye to a brother, a Member of this body, who has shown us the way in the tradition of the Senate. We are all better just for having known him.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FY 2001 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I rise in strong support of the FY 2001 Defense Appropriations Act Conference Report. This bill provides the much needed funding for our deserving men and women in the military. After years of declining military budgets, this Defense Appropriations bill does the right thing by putting more of our resources toward our Armed Forces.

While I strongly support the overall bill, I would like to make note of one serious omission—the cut in funding for the Discoverer II or DII program. I know that Senator STEVENS and the Defense Appropriations staff fought hard for the DII program, but that they ran up against an entrenched opposition from the other side.

Discoverer II is a key element in assessing the utility, feasibility, and affordability of Space Based Radar (SBR). SBR will provide all weather, 24 hour, 7-day a week global surveillance coverage. The Department of Defense has stated that SBR will satisfy many unfilled requirements, such as Long Range Endurance Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition, Improved Ground Moving Target Indicator Tasking, Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination Interoperability, and provide simultaneous access to multiple theaters worldwide.

The program not only had the wide support of many Members of Congress, but also from the Secretary of the Air Force, the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the CINC of US Space Command, the CINC of US Central Command, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

While I cannot understand the reasoning for such opposition, I do want to

thank Senator STEVENS and his staff for fighting for this program and only hope that we can revive this important program in the future. The capabilities it will provide are too important to let it go quietly in the night. As the Chairman of the Strategic Subcommittee on the Armed Service Committee, as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and as a member of the Commission on the National Reconnaissance Office, I have heard from our military and intelligence leaders that this capability is needed and that we must demonstrate the space based radar. That is why I will continue to fight for this defense capability.

Again, Mr. President, I want to thank Senator STEVENS for all his hard work and for producing such a strong bill for our military men and women.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

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Steven Anderson, 38, Tulsa, OK; Eric Cummings, 24, Minneapolis, MN; Linda Dunn, 42, Detroit, MI; Betty Dreyfuss, 79, Daly City, CA; Tomas Hernandez, 27, Houston, TX; William Minis, 28, Dallas, TX; Ivan Powell, 32, Tulsa, OK; Percy Wright, 25, Baltimore, MD.

SENATOR JOHN O. PASTORE

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President. I rise today to speak of a man who, during 42 years of public service, left an indelible mark on generations of Rhode Islanders. Like thousands across the Ocean State, I am saddened by the passing of that great American statesman, John Orlando Pastore. Senator Pastore's life and career was one of diligence, accomplishment, integrity and distinction. Senator Pastore set a high standard for all who have followed him in the United States Senate, and while he will be missed, his contributions to our state and country will not be forgotten. My heartfelt condolences are extended to his family and friends in this difficult time.

The Nation's first Italian-American governor, and then U.S. Senator, John O. Pastore was rightfully proud of his heritage and humble roots—and all of

Rhode Island was proud of him. Not only did he embody the contributions made by Italian-Americans to our state and nation, his life and career were a source of pride and hope for immigrants from all nations.

A child when his father died, leaving his mother and siblings impoverished, the future Senator and Governor struggled to overcome the many daunting obstacles that life had laid in his path. Indeed, the true meaning of Senator Pastore's later personal and political achievements can only be understood when highlighted against the background of his own poignant memories of his childhood, which I would like to quote.

We lived in the ghetto of Federal Hill. We had no running water, no hot water. I used to get up in the mornings and have to crank the stove, to go out in the back yard and sift out the ashes and come back with the coal that I could recoup. I had to chisel with the ice pick the ice in the sink so that I could wash up in the mornings. And that was everybody in the family. That wasn't me alone. That was my wife's family, that was everybody's family.

A man who never forgot these humble beginnings, Senator Pastore captured the hearts and minds of Rhode Islanders in his conviction that if one worked hard enough and long enough, one's dreams would come true. As one who lived the American Dream, had risen from poverty to political prominence, Senator Pastore strived to extend those same opportunities to all in this country.

While Senator Pastore was a gentleman in everything he did, his convictions were equally strong. Whether he was standing up for the rights of the underprivileged, or warning of the dangers of nuclear proliferation, Senator Pastore was not afraid of a political fight. This was a man who, if asked an honest question, always provided an honest answer.

Perhaps for his family there is some comfort in knowing that Senator Pastore's career in public service has made the world a better place. He helped guide our state and nation through some of our most tumultuous times—from his pivotal role in the struggle for civil rights legislation to his efforts to protect mankind from the threat of nuclear weapons. Indeed, many in our nation may have marvelled at how a state so small could produce a man so great.

As the floor manager for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Senator Pastore demonstrated his deep devotion for maintaining and promoting the rights of all people, regardless of their race, color or background. As a key player in the negotiation and ratification of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Senator Pastore helped significantly reduce the dangers